

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES
OF THE
TWENTY-SECOND ANNIVERSARY
OF THE
SHELBY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,
HELD WITH
DOGWOOD GROVE CHURCH.
SHELBY COUNTY, ALABAMA,
ON THE 10th, 11th AND 13th OF OCTOBER, 1873.

T. P. HOLCOMB,

MODERATOR.

C. W. O'HARA,

CLERK.

Guide Power Press Print, Columbiana, Ala.

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MINUTES.

FRIDAY, Oct. 10, 1873.

The Twenty-Second Anniversary of the Shelby Association convened with Dogwood Grove Church, in Shelby county Alabama. Owing to the absence of Eld. J. C. Hand, who was appointed at our last session to preach the Introductory Sermon, Eld. N. J. Norris preached from the Chap. V, verses 1 and 2, of Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians.

After an intermission of twenty minutes, the Delegates assembled in the Church and were called to order by the former Moderator, Eld. T. P. Holcomb, who after singing offered prayer.

Brethren J. L. Peters and F. M. Fancher were appointed to read. Letters from the Churches were called for, received, read and the names of the delegates enrolled. (See Table of Statistics.) A door was opened for the reception of Churches. Proceeded to permanent organization. The former Moderator and Clerk were re-elected.

Called for correspondence—none present. Moved and seconded to call for correspondence again to-morrow.

Appointed Committes—

On Devotional Exercises.—Brethren C. L. Mooney and W. C. Powell from the 2nd District; Brethren P. M. Fancher and T. M. Fancher, together with the Deacons of Dogwood Grove Church, from the 1st District. For arrangement of the same see Appendix F.

On Documents.—Brethren J. H. R. Carden, J. L. Peters, W. W. Armstrong and Wesley Armstrong.

On Sabbath Schools.—Brethren W. W. Armstrong, James Martin, J. L. Peters and Thornton Fancher.

On Temperance.—W. V. Arnold and D. N. Hodgens.

On Finance.—Brethren P. M. Fancher and T. M. Fancher.

On motion the Constitution, Abstract of Principles and Rules of Decorum were read.

Appointed Eld. J. H. R. Carden to preach the Introductory Sermon at our next session, Eld. W. W. Armstrong, alternate; Eld. T. B. Dison to preach the Missionary Sermon, Elds. T. P. Holcomb and W. W. Armstrong, alternates.

By an act of the District Meeting of the 2nd District, and by request of Liberty Church, the next services of this body will be held with her, twelve miles northeast of Columbiana;

and on motion the time of meeting was changed from Friday before the 2nd Sabbath in October, to Friday before the 4th Sabbath in October, 1874.

On motion, adjourned until Saturday morning 9 o'clock. Prayer was offered by Bro. R. Owen.

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SATURDAY, Oct. 11.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer was offered by Eld N. J. Norris.

On motion the roll was called.

Calling for correspondence was again postponed until the afternoon session.

Appointed a committee on missions, viz: Brethren P. M. Fancher, W. W. Armstrong, J. H. R. Carden, B. L. Douglas and Greenville Jones.

Pleasant Hill Church was excluded from the Association because of her not having been represented in three years.

The following query was presented and answered: Query? Would it not be promotive of the cause of our Blessed Master, for churches in granting letters of dismission to limit them to six months. Yes. Adjourned for preaching.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association proceeded to business. Called for letters from churches which may not have been represented on yesterday, when a letter was received and read from Beaver Creek Church and the names of the delegates enrolled. (See table of statistics.)

Called the roll and marked absentees. Called for correspondence.

The following were present and were welcomed among us, which was manifested by the Moderator extending the right hand of fellowship:

From Mulberry Association, Bro. John Boyd with letter and minutes.

From the Tuscaloosa, Bro. W. T. Goodson with letter and minutes.

Returned Correspondence:—

To the Mulberry—W. V. Arnold and W. M. Arnold.

To the Tuscaloosa—Bro. Greenville Jones.

To the Unity—Dropped correspondence owing to distance.

To the Coosa River—Discontinued correspondence.

To the Cahaba Valley—W. C. Wilder and W. C. Powell.

To the Canaan—James Martin and J. H. R. Carden.

The Report of the Committee on Temperance was received and the committee discharged. (See Appendix A.)

The Report of the Committee on Documents was received and the committee discharged. (See Appendix B.)

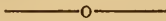
On motion the delegates from Union Bibb Church were called upon to state the action of the Church, in reference to the case of a disorderly member who is selling spirituous liquors, when they stated that he justified himself in his course, and the Church still retained him in fellowship. The delegates asked for indulgence until the minority could get help, which was granted. Whereupon the following resolution was offered and adopted, as advice to the aggrieved minority of the aforesaid Church:

WHEREAS, Union Bibb Church still refuses to take the advice of this body, but by a majority justifies the disorderly member in selling spirituous liquors; therefore—

Resolved, That this Association advise those members who oppose the previous action of the Church, to ask the Church for a re-hearing, and if it is granted, to call for help from sister churches. But if said Church refuses such trial with such help; then for said members to separate themselves from the majority and claim to be Union Church, and so represent themselves by sending delegates to our next session.

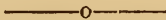
The Report of the Committee on Sabbath Schools was received and the committee discharged. (See Appendix C.)

After prayer by Eld. J. H. R. Carden, adjourned until Monday morning 9 o'clock.



SUNDAY, Oct. 12.

The order prescribed by the Committee on Devotional Exercises was observed. The brethren all labored faithfully in this day's services. The congregations were large and remarkably attentive, and it is hoped that much good will be the result. After the preaching of the Missionary Sermon by Eld. J. H. R. Carden, a collection was taken up for the support of Domestic Missions, the amount of which will be found in the Report of of the Committee on Finance.



MONDAY, Oct. 13.

Pursuant to adjournment the Association met. Prayer was offered by Eld. D. N. Hodgins.

Letters were read from Columbiana and Montevallo Churches.

The roll was called and absentees marked.

The Report of the Committee on Finance was received and the committee discharged. (See Appendix E.)

On motion, Eld. T. P. Holcomb was paid \$15 for services previously rendered as domestic missionary, and five dollars

which had been subscribed by himself, was given to him to supply delinquency on a previous subscription.

Report of the Committee on Missions was received and committee discharged. (Appendix D.)

As was recommended by the Committee on Missions, the following Executive Committees were appointed:

From the First District—Brethren T. L. Miles, T. Fancher, Greenville Jones, W. V. Arnold, W. R. Nolen, J. M. Jinks and James Booth. Bro. P. M. Fancher was appointed chairman, who also appointed Saturday before the 4th Sabbath in March, 1874, for the meeting of the committee, at Cahaba Valley Church.

From the Second District—Brethren James Gould, C. L. Mooney, L. J. Carden, Wm. Davis, J. D. Martin, Wesley Armstrong, B. L. Douglas, Gadson Hand and J. W. Dodson. Bro. Wm. C. Powell was appointed chairman, who also appointed Saturday before the 2nd Sabbath in March; 1874, for the meeting of the committee, at Mt. Calvary Church.

The District Meeting of the 1st District will be held with Six Mile Church, on Friday before the 1st Sabbath in July, 1874. Introductory Sermon to be preached by the Pastor. Subjects presented for discussion: 1. Has a Deacon the right to administer the ordinances of the Church—Baptism and the Sacrament? R. Owen to open the discussion. 2. Is there sufficient authority from the Bible to make Saturday meetings a test of fellowship? P. M. Fancher to open the discussion. 3. Does the teaching of the Scriptures recognize more than one true church? Greenville Jones to open the discussion. 4. What is the best means of carrying out the missionary operations?—N. H. Thompson to open the discussion.

The District Meeting of the 2nd District will be held with Salem Church on Saturday before the 4th Sabbath in July, 1874.

Directed that the Clerk superintend the printing of 400 copies of these minutes, reserve 50 copies for correspondence, transcribe them in the Association Book and receive \$15 for his services.

Bro. P. M. Fancher was appointed distributing agent for the 1st District, and the Clerk for the 2nd District.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association be tendered and citizens, in the vicinity of Dogwood Grove Church, for their courteous hospitality during the sitting of this body.

Prayer was offered by the Clerk; a parting hymn was sung while the Delegates extended to each other and the congregation the parting hand, after which the Association adjourned to meet at the time a place designated.

T. P. HOLCOMB, Moderator.

C. W. O'HARA, Clerk.

APPENDIX A.—Report of Committee on Temperance.

We, your Committee on Temperance, beg leave to report, that as christians are commanded to abstain from every appearance of evil¹, and to come out from the world and be separate—to touch not, taste not, handle not the unclean thing—we therefore recommend that the Association advise the churches not to hold in fellowship any members who walks disorderly or indulges in the practice of habitually using intoxicating drinks as a beverage, makes for sale, or sells spirituous liquors.—and we also recommend the Association to inform the Churches she will not hold in fellowship any church that retains in fellowship members who are guilty of the above named sins.

N. J. NORRIS, Chairman.

APPENDIX B.—Report of Committee on Documents.

We, your committee beg leave to report, that we have examined the letters from the churches, and are grieved to be compelled to say, that the spirit of religion seems to be rather on the decline. But few churches report an increase of membership, either by letter or experience and baptism. Aside from this, we have nothing of interest, except that the Association, in former sessions, has informed the churches that she will not hold in fellowship churches which retain in fellowship members who walk disorderly, drinks or sells spirituous liquors as a beverage; and as the Association is in possession of the fact, that Union Bibb Church still retains in fellowship members who are guilty of the above named sins, we would recommend the Association to inquire as to what action the church has taken, as nothing is reported in the letter concerning it.

We also recommend the churches to patronize our southern denominational literature, viz: *The Baptist Index and Baptist, Kind Words*, and the *Home and Foreign Journal*, as proper exponents of scriptural doctrine and Baptist Principles. Respectfully submitted,

J. H. R. CARDEN, Chairman.

APPEND. C.—Report of Committee on Sabbath Schools

Your Committee on Sabbath Schools beg leave to say that the information upon the subject sent up by the churches, is so meagre that we have but little material from which to make a report. The same apathy of which we have before complained, still seems to prevail. We are, therefore, led to believe that the system of Sabbath Schools, as organized at our last session, is somewhat defective. It has not, at least, presented us with any good results. We therefore recommend that a change be made in the plan of conducting the Sunday School Convention. The churches do not seem to be alive to the importance of Sabbath Schools, and it is evident that some more efficient means should be devised by which a deeper interest may be diffused throughout the churches, in this great work. We would suggest that more extensive information be sent up by the churches, in their letters to the Association, than has heretofore been done. Respectfully submitted,

W. W. ARMSTRONG, Chairman.

APPENDIX D.—Report of Committee on Missions.

We, your Committee on Domestic Missions, beg leave to report, that the subject of missions is one which should deeply interest every lover of Jesus. But owing to the late war and various other circumstances, the Baptist composing this Association seem to have forgotten the injunction: "*as ye have freely received freely give,*" and also, "*the harvest is great.*"

When we look at the multitudes in our bounds destitute of the means of grace, we see the destitution is great while, "*the laborers are few.*" But few as the laborers are, they could supply a large amount of this destitution, if the churches would send them and support them by their means and their prayers.

We therefore recommend the ministers laboring in our bounds, to endeavor to stir up the membership of their churches to the duty of supporting the ministry, and that the ministry give their whole time to the work of their Master.

And we also recommend the following plan. That there be an executive committee appointed in each district consisting of one member from each church; that each committee have a chairman, and that it be made the duty of each member of these committees to labor in his respective church and urge upon his brethren the discharge of christian duty, in giving of their substance for the support of Domestic Missions; to take up collections, or ascertain how much land they will cultivate in cotton, how much they will pay per month, what part of their incomes they will give for this purpose, and how much they will pay for the year. And further when this effort shall have been made in all the churches, that there be a meeting of each committee to ascertain how much has been, or can be done. And that after the meetings of these committees, the chairmen meet together and appoint a missionary or missionaries to labor as long as they think the funds that may be on hand, and the pledges will justify and the destitution requires.

P. M. FANCHER, Chairman.

APPENDIX E.—Report of Committee on Finance.

Amount sent up from churches for Minutes.....	\$18 30
“ “ “ “ “ “ Associational Purposes.....	15 85
Amount sent up from Liberty Church for Domestic Missions....	10 00
Amount sent up from Columbiana Church for Sabbath Schools..	5 00
Collected on Sabbath for Domestic Missions.....	9 75
Amount in hands of Treasurer.....	9 20
Total.....	\$68 10

P. M. FANCHER, }
T. M. FANCHER, } Committee.

APPENDIX F.—Arrangement of Committee on Devotion.

Preaching on Friday at 11 o'clock by Bro. N. J. Norris, from 1st and 2nd verses, V Chap. of Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians. Friday night by Bro. O'Hara, from 23d and 24th verses of the XIV Chap. of St. John. Saturday by N. J. Norris, from the 11th verse of the XXXIII Chapter of Ezekiel. Saturday night, by Bro. D. N. Hodgins, from the 42d verse of the XXII Chapter of St. Matthew. Prayer meeting Sunday morning conducted by Bro. S. Carlton; Missionary Sermon at 11 o'clock by Bro. J. H. R. Carden, from the 8th verse of the III Chapter of Malachi. At 2 o'clock, by Bro. T. B. Dison, from the 7th and 8th verses of the VI

Chapter of Paul's Epistle to the Gallatians. Sunday night, by Bro. J. H. R. Carden, from the 27th and 28th verses of the IX Chapter of Paul's Epistle to the Hebrews.

Treasurer' Report.s

Shelby Association in account with C. W. O'Hara		Dr.
To cash paid for Printing Minutes.....		\$19 65
" " " " Clerk's Fees.....		15 00
" " " Eld. T. Holcomb, Domestic Missionary.....		19 00
" " " Eld T. C. Boykin for Sabbath Schools.....		5 00
Total		\$58 65
By cash from Committee on Finance.....	\$68 10	
By Cash collections on Domestic Misisions.....	4 25	
	<hr/>	
	\$72 35	
	58 65	
	<hr/>	
Balance in hands of Treasurer	\$13 70	
Amount of subscriptions on hand for Domestic Missions.....		\$61 25
Amount of land to be cultivated in cotton four acres.		

Corresponding Letter.

TO SISTER ASSOCIATIONS: Receive this, our Letter, with our Minutes and Messengers, as a token of our regard for you, and the expression of our desire to continue correspondence with you. Viewing ourselves as co-workers in the great cause of Truth, and as gentle yet firm opposers of error, we wish to keep a close alliance.

Our next session will be held with Liberty Church, Shelby county, Alabama, 12 miles northeast of Columbiana, commencing on Saturday before the 4th Sabbath in October, 1874, at which time meet with us. May God bless you abundantly. Amen.

T. P. HOLCOMB, Moderator.

C. W. O'HARA, Clerk.

CORRECTIONS.—On first page the following names belonging to the Temperance Committee were omitted N. J. Norris, T. M. Fancher and B. L. Douglas.

On same page second line from bottom, read "sessions" of this body, instead of "services."

The resolution on 6th page should read, that the thanks of this Association be tendered "to the brethren" &c.

Eighth page, 9th line from bottom of the Report of Committee on Missions, read "or" for "and."

Table of Churches and Statistics,

CHURCHES.	PASTOR.	POST OFFICE.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.		Minutes	Total Membership	Deceased	Excluded	Dism'd by Letter	Restored	Ad't'd by Letter	Baptised	Sab. of Preaching
			Ordained Ministers marked thus, *										
			Licentiates, †										
			Absentees, ‡										
Cahaba Valley.	R. Wood	Montevallo.	T. L. Miles,	T. M. Fancher,†	Levi Lolly,	53	1		15		1		4
Dogwood Grove	D. D. Hodgens,	"	S. Carlton,	J. Holsomback,	J. M. Jinks,	101		2	1		2		2
Enon.	J. M. Langston,	Centerville.	Greenville Jones,	J. W. Arnold,†	Stephen Johnson,†	56	1		2		2		2
Montevallo.	T. C. Boykin.	Montevallo.	W. M. McMath,†	John Lucas,	R. W. Nolen.	51							3
New Antioch.	D. N. Hodgens.	"	E. Walker,	Shelby Booth,†	J. O. Clark	68		3	4				4
Six Mile.	E. H. R. Carden.	Tionas.	P. M. Fancher,	W. V. Arnold,	J. L. Peter,†	33	1	2	4				1
Union Bibb.	R. Wood	Day's Mills.	Thornton Fancher,†	R. Wood,*†	James Lucas.	44		1	5				3
Bethesda.	W. W. Armstrong.	Wilsonville.	W. W. Armstrong,*†	J. Ray,	Thomas Stone,†	78	2	4	1		9		3
Bethel.	J. H. R. Carden.	"	J. H. R. Carden,*	C. W. O'Hara,†	W. C. Powell,	26			1				2
Beaver Creek.	J. H. R. Carden.	Columbiana.	J. A. Gould,†	L. Q. Gould,†	H. B. Horton,†	26	1						2
Columbiana.	T. C. Boykin.	"	No representation,	but Letter and funds.		15							4
Evergreen.	J. C. Hand.	"	No representation,	but statistics and funds.		13			9				1
Hopewell.	W. W. Armstrong.	"	N. J. Norris,*	Wesley Armstrong,†	Geo. Elliott,†	25	1						4
Liberty.	T. P. Holcomb.	"	T. P. Holcomb,*	W. L. Gardner,†	J. D. Martin,	83							1
Mt. Calvary.	"	"	M. E. B. Jones,†	C. D. Mooney,	Noel M. Thomas,	39	1	5	2				2
Salem.	L. L. Brasher.	"	J. W. Dodson,†	J. J. Miner,†	L. R. Kendrick,	19			4				4
Union Shelby	"	Helena.	B. L. Douglas,†	Wm. Lucas,	H. W. Bowers.	32			6				1



